Licens'd and Publiſh'd according to Act of Parliament.

THE

Unfortunate Shipwright:

OR

Cruel CAPTAIN.

BEING

A faithful Narrative of the unparallel'd Sufferings of *Robert Barker*, late Carpenter on board the *Thetis* Snow, of *Briſtol*, in a Voyage to the Coaſt of *Guinea* and *Antigua*.

LONDON:

Printed for, and Sold by the Sufferer, for his own Benefit; and by no one elſe.

THE

Unfortunate Shipwright,

OR

Cruel CAPTAIN.

FIRST it will not be amiſs to acquaint the reader with the place of my birth, where I ſerved my apprenticeſhip; at what places, and with whom I worked at my buſineſs, or occupation as a ſhipwright, ſo that any gentleman, lady, or others, may upon inquiry, be informed of my character before this unhappy ſtate of darkneſs ſeized me; which I can juſtly ſay and prove, came through the violent and wilful actions of captain Robert Wabſhutt, and doctor John Roberts, both of the city of Briſtol, as will plainly appear in the following narrative.

I was born near the Borough of Wiggan, in the county of Lancaſter, and regiſtered in that pariſh church on the 12th day of JANUARY, 1722, and was brought up in the ſaid pariſh, or near thereunto, till the age of fourteen; then bound apprentice unto

Thomas Holland, of Liverpool, ſhipwright, and ſerved my time in the aforeſaid county; which being expired, I worked a while with Edward Naſh, barge-builder, at Broaſley in the county of Salop, and afterwards a conſiderable time with John Harrod, barge-builder, at Shrewſbury; from whence I went to Briſtol, and there entered on board the Tryal, captain Abraham Sanders, in a voyage to the coaſt of Guinea, St. Chriſtophers and Virginia, and back to Briſtol: which we compleated in the year 1751. After this voyage I returned into Lancaſhire, and worked at Tarlaton, near Preſton, on the river Douglas, in the employment of Mr. Alexander Lee, of Wiggan, chief proprietor of that nivigation: where I remained till JULY 1754: Then I went to Briſtol again, and there fell into work under Mr. Oſborn, in the Limekiln Dock, on the Thetis Snow, whereof —— Fitzherbert, was commander: the ſaid Robert Wabſhutt, chief mate, and the ſaid John Roberts, doctor; bound on a voyage to Andony, on the coaſt of Guinea, for ſlaves: And from thence to Antigua, and back to Briſtol, which began my misfortunes.

The ſnow being finiſhed, I agreed with Mr. *William Blake*, who was purſer, and part owner, to proceed the voyage in her as carpenter, at the rate of 4*l.* *per* month; with the privilege of a hogſhead of ſugar, or a puncheon of rum from the Weſt-Indies. The merchant then advancing me 12*l.* I prepared all the neceſſaries for the voyage, to the value of 20*l.* But on going down to PILL, where the veſſel lay waiting for a wind, how great was my ſurprize, on ſeeing her ſo exceeding deep loaded, ſhe having only two feet eight inches clear from the gunnel to the waters edge. This ſtaggered me much, not knowing what to do; being very unwilling to proceed in her, yet aſhamed to return to *Briſtol*, as I had made a fair agreement: however, conſulting within myſelf, I reſolved upon the voyage, notwithſtanding the difficulty and danger of the

the paſſage through the channel in winter. But the ſhip's company, who came down the next day, going on ſhore in the evening at *Pill*, in order to bid farewel to *England* (ſome diſcourſe ariſing there over a pot of beer about the veſſel) declared ſhe was not fit to go ſuch a voyage at that time of the year, and murmured among themſelves, ſaying, The veſſel was but ſmall, (not 100 tons burden) too deeply laden, and would not be able to bear the weather; neither could ſhe contain a ſufficient quantity of proviſions for a ſlaving voyage, and that when at ſea the officers might live well enough, but the foremaſt men muſt be in want, through the ſhortneſs thereof: Whereupon they all refuſed to go the voyage, and were abſolutely determined on returning to *Briſtol*. But I being then reſolutely bent on performing my contract with Mr. *Blake*, ſat ſtill and ſaid nothing, till having heard their final determination, ſpoke in the following manner: '*We are going into a fine-weather country, and with a* '*fair wind ſhall be ſoon out of danger, and it will be a* '*cowardly action to return before we have performed* '*our contract, whereby the owners and merchants will* '*be greatly injured and damaged, by the detention of* '*the ſhip and cargo for want of hands.*" And in order to induce them to go on board, and proceed the voyage, further ſaid, That in caſe it ſhould happen, during the courſe thereof, we ſhould be ſhort, or in want of proviſions, I would be the firſt man who would ſeek a proper remedy and redreſs. This had its deſired Effect, for through my earneſt intreaties and perſuaſions they were prevailed on to proceed the voyage, all of them going on board the ſame night.

The next morning early, being the 22d of December 1754, we looſed our faſts, and dropped down into Kingroad, where we came to an anchor till ten o'clock, when captain *Fitzherbert* coming on board, brought *John Richardſon* with him, who was ſhipped by Mr. BLAKE

BLAKE as third mate, and then weighed anchor, and ſailed from thence with a fair wind, on our intended voyage.

John Richardſon was born in Deadman's Place, in the *Borough* of *Southwark*, and of good parentage. His father, while living, belonged to the Cloth-worker's company; his mother is now a widow eighty years of age, who ſince her huſband's death, followed the buſineſs of ſelling ſmall beer in casks, whereby ſhe gained a comfortable ſupport for many years: but by ſupporting her ſon John in his extravagancies, ruined herſelf, and is at preſent kept by the pariſh. I have been with her ſeveral times to be rightly informed of John's character and behaviour before he ſailed in the Thetis this voyage, who told me as above, and farther declared, That when a boy he fell into a lighter, whereby his skull was fractur'd, & as he grew up, gave himſelf over to lewd women, and by intercourſe with them, frequently contracted the foul diſtemper, and was ſalivated three or four times, which affected his brain to ſo great a degree, that upon drinking a ſmall quantity of ſtrong liquors, he was deprived of his rational faculties, and acted like a meer madman, and further ſaid, That ſhe, by the intereſt of friends, got him a midſhipman's birth in his majeſty's ſervice, but while in ſuch ſervice, when on ſhore, he was ſeveral times ſent to priſon for quarreling, and making riots and diſturbances in the ſtreets of London; frequently drawing his ſword, and playing other mad pranks, putting her to great expences before he could be releaſed: and when on board any of his majeſty's ſhips, behaved ſo very badly, and inconſiſtent with his office, that he was at laſt diſcharged from his majeſty's ſhip, Princeſs Louiſa, as incapable of doing duty. The truth of this can be proved by his mother now living in Deadman's Place; and Mr. Biddlecomb's widow, a ſawmaker in Moorfields, and by the ſhip's books at the Navy-Office.

I hope

I hope the candid reader will pardon this digreſſion, for as Richardſon was a chief inſtrument towards my misfortunes, I thought it incumbent upon me to ſhew his character; and I beg leave to inſert another of his weak or flighty tranſactions, before I proceed to my ſufferings, whereby unprejudiced people may, in ſome mea ure, account for the reaſon why he (thro' his unhappy temper and ill conduct) ſhould be the author of great part of my miſery, altho' in the firſt part of the voyage, he lay under divers obligations to me.

Now, as Richardſon had ſome knowledge of Mr. Blake, he reſolved to, and did go from London to Briſtol on foot, in order to make application for a birth in ſome ſhip belonging to him; and ordered his mother to ſend his cheſt and cloaths, &c. by the carrier. But before their arrival, he came on board the Thetis, as already mentioned, and went to ſea without them almoſt naked, tho' they were expected in three days time at fartheſt. Whereupon I taking compaſſion, gave him part of my bed and liquors, and ſupplied him with ſeveral other things abſolutely neceſſary; he being quite deſtitute and unprovided for a GUINEA Voyage.

N. B. *His cheſt, cloaths, &c. with* 30s. *in money arrived at Briſtol within three days after we ſailed; but were all loſt or embezzled thro' his indiſcretion and careleſſneſs, as his mother has ſince declared to me.*

But to proceed — We had moderate weather for about three weeks, notwithſtanding which, the ſhip's decks were never free from water; and if the weather had proved any ways boiſterous, the ſhip could not have lived, but muſt have inevitably foundered or been loſt. However, at the end of three weeks it pleaſed God to conduct us ſafe into a ſmooth ſea, with fine weather, when Mr. Pope, our ſecond mate falling ſick, died in ſix or ſeven days after; Richardſon ſucceeding him in that birth.

Pope's

Pope's cloaths being ſold at the maſt, Richardſon ame in for part, and what with his promotion and eing better ſupplied with apparel than uſual, ſo elated im that he grew ingrateful, forgetting my favours in is diſtreſs, became very inſolent, and provoking me aily cauſed my reſentment, and obliged me to abſent nyſelf from his company and converſation, and conequently from giving him any more liquors, which e was exceſſive fond of, and much addicted to: Upon his he embraced all opportunities to injure me, as ill now appear.

In a few days after Mr. Pope's death we caught a hark, part whereof was ordered for our meſs, (to wit) Richardſon, me, the boatſwain, the cooper, and a boy, ut having no butter, vinegar or pepper to eat with it, ſhark being a very dry fiſh and good for nothing without thoſe ingredients) I deſired one of my meſsmates o get ſome of the captain, who all anſwered 'twould e in vain, as they were well aſſured he would not rant any: Upon which I replied, that as thoſe things were under our care, we would go down and take ome; but on reflection, thinking it might be deemed wrong by the Captain, and ſuſpecting ſome evil deſign gainſt me, I did not go, nor ſuffer any one elſe ſo to o, and for want thereof the fiſh was thrown overoard, undreſſed: However, my ſuſpicion was not ill rounded, for Richardſon went immediately to the Captain, and told him that I threat'ned to break open he hatches and take what I pleaſed; but the Captain who well knew I had plenty of my own, and finding o grounds for ſo baſe an aſſertion, took little or no otice thereof, looking on it as the effect of Richardſon's ancour and malice.

Some ſhort time after this affair happened, the platorm over that part of the hold wherein the liquors ere ſtowed, being broke open, and ſeveral of the hip's crew getting drunk, gave reaſon to ſuſpect there ad been an embezzelment in the cargo, as they had no

no liquors of their own: Whereupon the Captain ordered me and Wabſhutt the chief mate to ſearch after ſuch part as might be hid or ſecreted, which we according'y did, and finding a two gallon cag almoſt full of Engliſh brandy, hid under ſome junk on the plat-form forwards, brought the ſame to the Captain when he ordered the people aft, who upon examination confeſſed that ſeveral of them, together with Richardſon, broke open the platform, and ſtole the liquor, being perſuaded and inſtigated thereto by him whereof the captain was ſo ſenſible, that he immediately diveſted Richardſon of his office as ſecond mate and turned him before the maſt, not thinking it ſafe or prudent to truſt him in any capacity above a common man; and at the ſame time told me, he was convinced that Richardſon's ſtory, concerning me breaking open the hatches was a malicious deſign and plot contrived by him against me.

Nothing more material entered during the remainder of our Paſſage to Andony, where we arrived in the month of March, 1755, and the weather proving very fine, I was all ſuch time fully employed at my own buſineſs, in caulking the decks, making bulkheads, barricadoes, &c. for the reception of the ſlaves, and doing other neceſſary things in the ſhip; ſo that in ſhort, my work was all compleated, except caulking the ſides, which is never done till about a week before the ſhip's departure from the coaſt.

On our arrival at Andony, we there found the Africa Galley of Briſtol, Captain Robe Commander at anchor, who had taken moſt part of his cargo of ſlaves on board, but was then aſhore himſelf, at the Factory, at Andony, a negro town of trade up the river, thirty miles diſtant from the place where the two veſſels lay at anchor, about musket ſhot aſunder,

Our ſhip's company were at this time all hearty and in good ſpirits, when Captain Fitzherbert entered

ed me to go with the boat's crew to cut fire-wood, for cooking the ſlaves victuals in the middle paſſage, altho' not my buſineſs: However, having compleated all my Work as before mentioned, and little to do on board, being deſirous of obliging the Captain, and doing every thing conducive to the ſhip and cargo, conſented and went with the crew in a ſmall boat called the yawl; the captain on the ſame day going up to a factory at Andony, with the pinnace, in order to purchaſe ſlaves.

We went on ſhore and cut a boat load of wood that day, but could not get on board with the ſame till next morning, and were obliged to dreſs our Victuals on the coals, and lay on the beach ſand all night expoſed to the wind and rain.

Upon going on board the next morning we acquainted Wabſhutt (whom the Captain had left in charge of the ſhip) with the hardſhips and inconveniences we endured, while cutting wood, and that it was impoſſible for us to labour all day without a kettle to dreſs our victuals in, and proper covering and other neceſſaries for ſhelter from the weather, in the night; begging him to ſupply us therewith, which he utterly refuſed, ſaying nothing could be ſpared: So we were obliged to go on in that manner, expoſed to all weathers till the third trip.

Coming back over the bar in order to carry the third load of wood on board, we met the Ann Gally's boat who had got a pitch-pot for us to boil our victuals in, together with ſome bread, a piece of ſalt beef, two quart bottles of Engliſh ſpirits, and an old ſail Cloth for our ſhelter, which would keep out no more water than a basket, altho' there was then ſeveral tarpawlins lying uſeleſs on board the ſhip, that would have been very ſerviceable and made a tent, whereby we might be ſcreened from all weathers; and by ſuch boat, Wabſhutt ſent orders for us to return on ſhore with the Wood, and ſtay there till we had further di-

rections from him, and cut more wood and lay it up in cords, during which time he would ſupply us with neceſſaries by the pinnace.

Theſe orders we thought mighty extraordinary, eſpecially as captain *Fitzherbert*, before he went up to the factory, had directed us to cut the wood and bring it aboard directly, as ſoon as the weather permitted, and we could get over the bar, (the ſea frequently running ſo high, that no boat can paſs it for ten days together,) therefore we all agreed to, and did return to the ſhip, and delivered this third boat load of wood, but upon coming along-ſide, Wabſhutt was very angry with us for diſobeying his orders, and as ſoon as the wood was taken into the ſhip, he immediately ſent us on ſhore again to cut more, and inſiſted on our ſtaying till we heard further from him, asking how we dared to diſobey his orders? altho' I acquainted him with the directions given by Captain *Fitzherbert*.

In our paſſage from the ſhip we conſulted with each other the beſt method to be taken, and conſidering the difficulties and hardſhip we underwent while on ſhore for want of proper neceſſaries, to the great prejudice of our healths, in a very ſickly country, as Guinea is well known to be, and that the negroes might ſteal the wood away as faſt as cut and corded, and perhaps do us a miſchief, which is frequently the caſe, we all agreed to go up to the captain at the factory, and acquaint him with the whole affair.

It not being my buſineſs to cut wood, the captain ſent me down in the yawl in order to do my duty on board the ſhip, but being got down to the River's mouth, found our pinnace, and the Ann Gally's long boat at the watering place, filling their casks, when *Charles Cooper*, who was ſecond mate in *Richardſon*'s Room, deſired me to ſhew him the wooding place, ſaying, it would be his buſineſs to cut wood in my room; whereupon diſpatching the

yawl

yawl away to the ſhip, I went with him in the pinnace to the wooding place, which took up ſo much time as prevented our getting over the bar before dark, therefore agreed to lay along-ſide of the Ann Gally's long boat till the next morning.

About ten o'clock that evening it thundered and lightened exceedingly, and a tornado coming on, obliged us to ſhelter in a creek, which was well we did, for the Ann Galley's long boat being heavy, her people could not weigh the Anchor ſoon enough to prevent the boat driving on ſhore by the ſtorm, where ſhe was ſtranded and greatly damaged; the crew narrowly eſcaping with their lives.

This misfortune was unknown to us, till the morning, when walking on the ſand we met the people, who informed us of their diſaſter, and ſhewed us the boat half full of ſand, almoſt irrecoverable, deſiring me to help to clear her, & if poſſible to repair the damages ſhe had received: Upon which, being always very willing and deſirous to give what aſſiſtance lay in my power to perſons in diſtreſs, I went with them, and helped to clear the boat from ſand, ſending our boat in the interim on board the Ann Galley, to acquaint them with their long boat's miſchance, deſiring them to diſpatch their CARPENTER on ſhore with tools and proper materials.

The Ann Gally's Carpenter being ſick, and not able to work, the people carried his mate on board our ſhip, to be there in my room, while the long boat was repairing; but Wabſhutt was ſo much offended at my ſtaying on ſhore without his leave, that he ſwore, whenever I came on board, to blow my brains out, notwithſtanding they acquainted him with the great neceſſity there was for me.

I continued aſſiſting the Ann Galley's people, and repairing the boat three days, when about 10 o'clock in the evening of the laſt day, being faſt aſleep in the tent, we were ſurrounded by upwards of an hundred

negroes, armed with piſtols and cutlaſſes, who ſtripped us all ſtark-naked, cut the tent and boat to pieces, and robbed us of every thing we had, which they took into their canoes, and carried the ſame clean off.

While the negroes were buſy about their plunder, we had an opportunity of eſcaping, and ran down to the ſea-ſide, where we continued till four o'clock the next afternoon, expoſed to the weather, ſtark naked, it raining very hard all that time, when our boat paſſing by took us in, and we went up in her to the factory, where captain *Fitzherbert* received me very kindly, pitying my misfortunes, and captain Robe in conſideration of my loſs, happening through the Service I was endeavouring to do him, in ſaving his boat, made me a handſome preſent of ſeveral things very profitable in that country.

Now the Ann Gally's people having acquainted captain *Fitzherbert* with Wabſhutt's threat'ning to blow my brains out, upon the account before mentioned, he wrote a letter to Wabſhutt, wherein he deſired him to take no further notice concerning that affair, as I had been helping the diſtreſſed, which was no more than my duty.

This letter I delivered to Wabſhutt himſelf, and he ſeem'd to be ſatisfied; but from that day he laid his ſchemes for my ruin, as I have all the reaſon in the world to imagine. — And now he began.

For at this time the ſecond mate being employed in the pinnace to fetch wood and water, and the boatſwain in carrying goods up and down, to and from the factory, and the cooper employed there, we had no other officers left on board but Wabſhutt the chief mate, the doctor, (his great croney) and myſelf, when it was my property to meſs with them, which they would not ſuffer, as it might defeat their hellish deſigns then hatching againſt me, ſo was obliged to meſs with the foremaſt men.

We

We had now no more than three meſſes, and one piece of meat a meſs, which according to the cuſtom of Guinea voyages, ſhould be choſen by each meſs in their turn, but inſtead of that, Wabſhutt and the doctor conſtantly took the ſmalleſt piece, and brought it themſelves to the meſs I belonged to; which occaſion'd a murmuring among my meſsmates, who ſeveral times ſaid it was wholly through me that they were ſerved in ſuch a manner, and that they could plainly perceive the mate and doctor were abſolutely determin'd to oppreſs me; but I bore it with patience, ſeeing into their drift, hoping for a Remedy when the captain came on board.

Captain Robe of the Ann Galley having compleated his cargo, came on board his own ſhip, and ſent his carpenter to beg ſome of my tools, all his own being taken away by the negroes, when we were repairing the boat as before mentioned: The CARPENTER and Boatſwain came both together, and preſented me with a two gallon cag, and gallon ſtone bottle of neat brandy, in return for two young parrots which I had before given them: The cag I put into my cheſt, the bottle left out, and made ſome toddy for the carpenter and boatſwain, and my meſsmates to drink, at parting, and having good ſtore of tools of my own, ſpared ſo many as the carpenter had occaſion for: We ſat over the toddy about an hour, when the carpenter and the boatſwain of the Ann Galley returned aboard their own ſhip, at which time Wabſhutt went with them, in order to take leave of his friends, and took my meſsmates to row him back.

Unhappily for Richardſon, I left the bottle of brandy near the combings, where we ſat while drinking the toddy, forgeting to put the ſame in my cheſt, when he in a clandeſtine manner, unknown to any of us, got the bottle and drank ſo much, that he intoxicated himſelf to a degree of madneſs, which ſoon after appeared, but not ſuſpecting what had happened, did not

not miſs my brandy till next morning, having put the bottle into my cheſt ſoon after drinking the toddy, without ever examining or looking into it, which if I had done, could eaſily have accounted for Richardſon's following behaviour.

Wabſhutt had not been gone long before Richardſon coming forwards directed his diſcourſe to me, as I ſat on the gratings, thus, "carpenter will you make your fortune" how! ſays I, he replied "let's take the veſſel" I asked him, "what ſhall we do with her," his anſwer was, "I know where to carry the veſſel, and how to diſpoſe of the ſlaves" upon this, being aſtoniſh'd at his folly and raſhneſs, told him he was either drunk or mad, and bid him go about his buſineſs, and not trouble me with his nonſence. He then went aft, but in two or three minutes coming again, asked me to lend him my knife, which I did not chuſe, unleſs he told me for what; his anſwer was, no harm, and he delivering the knife, he went with it in his hand upon the forecaſtle, where he ſtood five minutes looking over the bow of the ſhip, without ſaying or attempting any thing as I could perceive, for my eyes were fixed on him all the while, fearing ſome miſchievous trick in his mad frolicks. Coming from thence and going aft, threw the knife down at my foot as he paſſed by, which I immediately put in my pocket, and preſently afterwards, being ſtill ſitting on the gratings, ruminating on Richardſon's odd conduct, I heard him on the quarter-deck, ſpeak to the doctor as follows; doctor, you are no more doctor here; to which the doctor replied, why ſo? Richardſon anſwered, I am commander of this veſſel, and ſpeaking to the people on board, ſaid, lads, will you live or die? one of whom anſwering, live: RICHARDSON replied, Then cut one of the cables and ſlip the other, looſe the top-ſails, and hoiſt Jolly Roger. This diſcourſe alarmed us all; and upon his going up to the barricado door, Cooper the ſecond mate, and John

Bray

Bray a lad, came and asked me if I was any ways concerned with *Richardſon*, for they ſuſpected me, by ſeeing us talk together; I anſwered in the negative, and acquainted them before all the reſt of the ſhip's company then preſent, with the converſation between *Richardſon* and me, as before related, and moreover told them ſuch proceedings were quite diſagreeable to my inclination, and that I would be the firſt man in ſecuring *Richardſon*, or any other man that dared to attempt any thing to the prejudice of the ſhip and cargo.

About an hour after this Affair happened, Wabſhutt came on board, when he was made acquainted with the whole tranſaction, and I informed him of the diſcourſe between me and *Richardſon*; upon which he ordered a pair of ſhackles, and the ſame being immediately brought by *Henry Curry* an aſſiſtant to me, Wabſhutt himſelf fixed and bolted them on *Richardſon*'s legs; and then before the ſhip's company cleared me from the imputation of having any concern with *Richardſon* in the above proceedings, and likewiſe declared there was not the leaſt foundation for cauſe of ſuſpicion againſt me.

But to return—both Wabſhutt and the doctor ſtill continuing to bring our meſs the leaſt pieces of meat as uſual, for about ten days afterwards, when the doctor bringing a piece, (the bone whereof weighing upwards of four pounds, and the meat not one) occaſioned a general diſcontent, and put my meſsmates quite out of patience, who plainly told me that they ſhould not have proceeded the voyage, had it not been for my promiſes at Pill, and inſiſted on my making the ſame good, therefore being under a neceſſity of ſo doing, I, taking the bone and meat in my hand, went to Wabſhutt on the quarter-deck, and ſpoke in the following manner. "Mr. Wabſhutt, this is not a "fair way of proceeding, ſome people to have plenty "while others ſtarve: ſhewing him the bone and meat,)

" meat,) 'tis five pounds I believe, but upwards of " four pounds is bone, and not one pound of meat to " ſerve five men twenty-four hours: We have made " a propoſal which we beg you'll agree to, and it is " this, that you will allow five pounds of beef to a " meſs, on beef-days, and on pork days, four pounds " of pork, and four pounds of bread a week to each " man, and water to drink; and if proviſions fall " ſhort, give us leſs, but all alike, with which we'll be " content, and every man in his ſtation do his duty " to the utmoſt of his power; but if you will not give " your conſent to theſe propoſals, we muſt be obliged " to go where we can get proviſions, and not be forci- " bly ſtarved by you." To this he made no reply, and we were obliged to reſt ſatisfied with the morſel we had got; a ſmall modicum to feed five hungry appetites twenty-four hours; and this practice ſtill continued for five days longer, altho' there was plenty on board at that time. Therefore I am convinced that Wabſhutt and the doctor's bad treatment, in regard to proviſions, was done with a view to compel me to commit ſome outrage whereby they might have it in their power to put their villainous deſigns, againſt me, into execution, which they had been contriving ever ſince my complaint to the captain at the Factory, and which I believe was partly the cauſe thereof, and partly through my application about the bone and meat; for now begins the ſcene of my miſery.

At the end of the laſt mentioned five days, Wabſhutt ſaid the captain had ſent for me to the Factory, in order to clean the bottom of the pinnace, and give her a new coat, whereupon I took all neceſſaries for that purpoſe, together with ſome goods of my own, intending to traffick therewith in the country, and Wabſhutt wrote a letter to the captain, and delivered it to the boatſwain, who was patron of the boat, which I imagined to be an accompt or bill of particulars concerning

concerning the goods or ſtores we were carrying to the Factory, not having then the leaſt ſuſpicion of any plot or ſcheme to enſnare me: But how great was my ſurprize when we came there, for the captain on reading Wabſhutt's letter, inſtead of giving directions about the boat, immediately claped a piſtol to my head, and ordered me to be put in irons, & chained to a poſt, which was quickly done by JOHN BRAY before mentioned, without aſſigning any cauſe for ſo doing, altho' I, as well as ſeveral of the head negroes, who ſpoke very good Engliſh, divers times requeſted to know what offence I had committed to be thus barbarouſly entreated, but the captain's anſwer always was, he had reaſon enough, and that was ſufficient.

I remained confined in this diſmal condition fourteen days, during which time, ſaw ſeveral of my goods and tools embezzled before my face, no care being taken thereof, and was likewiſe viſited with a ſevere fit of ſickneſs. inſomuch that I was given over, and looked upon to be a dying man; notwithſtanding the frequent intreaties of divers perſons, eſpecially ſeveral of the chief negroes, could not obtain any relief or comfort; till at laſt I told the captain before them all, that I did not expect to live, but ſhould certainly die by his cruel treatment, therefore I laid my death abſolutely at his charge: Whereupon the captain himſelf thinking me to be paſt all hopes of recovery, and that I could no longer ſurvive it, ordered BRAY to unlooſe me from the poſt, ſaying at the ſame time, take him to the boat, and carry him (ſhackled as he is) on board the veſſel to Wabſhutt, and the doctor, and let them anſwer his death, for they are abſolutely the cauſe thereof, and bid the people take ſpecial care that I did not fall overboard in the paſſage.

This confeſſion of the captain, gave me great reaſon to ſuſpect the baſe artifices and villainy contrived, and

carried on by Wabſhutt and the doctor, who had groſsly impoſed on him through their monſtrous lies and perfidy; and am now fully convinced of their helliſh deſign to deſtroy me, not only by reaſon of their future unparallel'd behaviour, but alſo by what ſome of the crew have told me ſince we came home, for they declare that when I was ſent to the Factory, as above ſet forth, Wabſhutt and the Doctor wrote the captain word, that I had threat'ned to ſtaple down the ſcuttle, and confine Wabſhutt in the cabin, and take the boat, together with what goods I pleaſed, and leave the veſſel in diſtreſs, and if he offered to ſtir, or make any reſiſtance, I would blow his brains out with an harquebuſs, and that Bray (a fellow intirely dependant on Wabſhutt, and therefore obliged to ſay or do what he ordered) confirmed the ſame to the captain at the Factory, which was the ſole cauſe of my confinement, and ill treatment by the captain, he being in all other reſpects a good-natured humane man.

When the boat came along-ſide of the veſſel, Wabſhutt, with a ſmiling countenance, asked me how I did, ordered me to be taken on board, and put on the main-deck, where RICHARDSON then was ſtill in irons as I had left him, when WABSHUTT himſelf, very officiouſly, knocking off the ſhackles from Richardſon's legs, and mine, coupled us both together with two irons, one above the other, me by the right leg, and Richardſon by the left, and to compleat the matter effectually, confined my right hand to his left, with a pair of handcuffs, and then chained us faſt to a ring-bolt on the deck.

In this miſerable poſture we continued five weeks, expoſed to the inclemency of the weather, without any thing to lie on, or ſhelter us, and I being reduced very low and weak by ſickneſs, could not ſtand or help myſelf, but was obliged to lay flat on the deck, in the midſt of the exceſſive heavy rains, which fell on

that

that coaſt for a great many hours together, the water running in a continual ſtream under me, and round my ſides, and when theſe ſhowers abated, the ſun would ſhine out exceeding hot, inſomuch that it was like being in an oven, enough to kill any perſon under our circumſtances,

During ſuch confinement, Wabſhutt took poſſeſſion of my cheſt and effects, and ſent them aſhore, and what became of them afterwards, I could never learn, except ſome things of little value, which he returned when he ſet me at liberty, and thoſe were ſoon loſt, partly for want of a cheſt to keep them in, and other part thereof I was obliged to ſell to get victuals; for the ſickneſs leaving me, my appetite returned, and Wabſhutt and the Doctor ſtill continuing their bad treatment, muſt otherwiſe, have ſeveral times in the courſe of the voyage periſhed for want; altho' when we arrived at Antigua, there was near three months of the ſhips proviſions left untouched.

Captain *Fitzherbert* being poiſoned, as they ſaid, at the Factory, came on board, and there died, when Wabſhutt ſucceeding in the command of the veſſel, went up to the factory to purchaſe the remainer of the cargo where he continued five weeks: In whoſe abſence, ſeveral of the lads on board, pitying my condition, acquainted me that Wabſhutt & the doctor obliged them (amongſt others) to ſign the letter ſo ſent to captain *Fitzherbert* at the Factory, without letting them know the contents thereof, but they really believed ſuch letter was the only reaſon of my confinement there.

Now by the bad conduct, ill uſage, and wicked contrivances of Wabſhutt and the doctor, the ſhip's company (conſiſting of twenty-two hands) were ſo reduced thro' death, ſickneſs, and deſertion, that we had no more than three who were able to perform duty, and while Wabſhutt was on ſhore, the ſlaves broke open the gratings in the night, when two of the very fineſt

took to the boat, and got away undiſcovered; which is no wonder, for the few people, who were able, worked hard all day, it was impoſſible to keep a good look-out in the night; and thoſe two ſlaves leaving the gratings open, it's really ſurprizing the others, (near 100 in number) did not all riſe and cut the ſhip's company off, which was then very eaſy for them to have done.

Wabſhutt having finiſhed the cargo, came on board, when finding the crew reduced ſo low that we had not hands ſufficient to work the veſſel, he, and the doctor came to me and Richardſon, ſaying, they would give us our liberty, provided we ſigned a writing, promiſing not to proſecute them for their ill uſage, otherwiſe they would keep us in irons till the ſhip arrived at Antigua: Whereupon being glad of any opportunity to get diſcharged, and compelled by neceſſity, agreed to their propoſals, and ſo were releaſed from our wretched confinement.

However, this confinement was abſolutely my ruin; for being expoſed to all weathers, and cruelly treated by Wabſhutt and the doctor all that time, and no care taken of me, I contracted a very bad diſtemper in my eyes, which increaſed in ſo violent a degree, as to deprive me intirely of ſight in about a fortnight afterwards, and have ever ſince remained quite blind.

The ſhips crew being reduced to the condition before related, we were obliged to go to Calabar, a fre-water River, about thirty leagues down the coaſt, to wood and water, where we got the aſſiſtance of other ſhips to help us; and about eight days afterwards proceeded to the iſland of Ponantipo, twenty leagues from thence, which we could not well have done without being aſſiſted by ſome of the people belonging to the ſhip, of Briſtol, who attended us all the way with their boat.

And we were furniſhed, in three days time with a quantity of yams for our conſumption in the

the voyage to Antigua; and then ſet ſail with the aſſiſtance of our own ſlaves, there being no poſſibility of our working the ſhip without them.

Upon the paſſage the people recovered apace, and grew hearty by eating the yams. which we had in plenty, being far better food than the ſhips proviſions, but Wabſhutt and the doctor ſtill continuing their accuſtomed malice, and being determined to make an end of me, abſo utely refuſed me any allowance thereof, although great numbers weighing ten or twelve pounds each, were thrown over-board in a morning, being grown rotten for want of uſe, giving me only the ſhips proviſions of about two ounces of meat *per* diem, and four pounds of bread *per* week; excluding me from the ſlaves proviſions; ſuch as rice, yams, beans, &c. which all the reſt of the ſhips company had plenty of, being their chief ſupport.

John Richardſon ſoon after his releaſement, was reſtored to his former poſt as ſecond mate; bnt about a week after our departure from Ponantipo, being in converſation with ſome of the ſhip's crew, he indiſcretely ſaid that as the writing was ſigned by him while under couſinement, it ſtood for nothing: and that he would proſecute Wabſhutt and the doctor, when he came to England, for their ill treatment: Which coming to their ears, nettled them ſo much, that they were determined to puniſh him further, but could find no plauſible pretence for ſome days; he continuing to do his duty, and dreading his former ſufferings was become very cautious and reſerved, evading many queſtions, asked on purpoſe to enſnare him.

But all would not ſave him, and to pot he muſt go right or wrong; for after he had again enjoy'd his poſt about ſix weeks, and behaved extremely well all that time, Wabſhutt called him upon the quarter deck, and ordered him to ſit down and help to mend the top-ſail, when Richardſon begged to be excuſed,

cuſed, ſaying his back-ſide was ſo ſore with the yaws, a common and contagious diſtemper among the negroes, that he could not ſit, but was very ready and willing to obey his commands in any thing elſe; upon which Wabſhutt declared if he could not ſit to work, he was no ways ſerviceable to the ſhip, and for that very reaſon, and no other, put him in irons again immediately, where he remained till our arrival at Antigua; and at the ſame time deprived him of the ſlaves proviſions, allowing him no more than what was granted me, altho' WABSHUTT well knew Richardſon ſpoke the truth, and he had contracted ſuch diſtemper in doing his duty, by going among the ſlaves and then was very ill.

HENRY CURRY, an aſſiſtant to me, likewiſe falling ſick and unable to work, the doctor ſaid it was the ſcurvy, and that he was lazy and ſlothful; whereupon both WABSHUTT and the doctor beat and kicked him frequently, and forced him beyond his ſtrength, till at laſt, by inhumane treatment, he was reduced ſo very low and weak, that he could not ſtand, his legs being ſwelled to a monſtrous ſize.

In this condition he continued languiſhing for ſome days, till about five o'clock in the morning of the day on which he died, when ſitting near me on the deck and talking to me, he complained of his belly, and then lay himſelf all along; ſhortly after, WABSHUTT ordered to put about ſhip, and he coming forwards and ſeeing CURRY lay there, ſpoke as follows, "damn "your blood you dog, what do you lay skulking for?" and then ſtruck or kick'd him twice; I heard the blows given, and immediately following, heard CURRY ſtruggle for breath: Upon which, WABSHUTT went away, and ſaid no more; but as ſoon as he was gone, PETER BATES the cooper, who was ſtanding by all the while, declared that WABSHUTT had actually killed CURRY, by two kicks with his foot, for CURRY never

never ſpoke afterwards, and his body was, by Wabſhutt's orders, thrown overboard, within four hours after he expired.

About a week after this melancholy affair happened we touched at the iſland of Annabona, and there took in a large ſupply of goats, hogs, fowls, and other proviſions: notwithſtanding this, and the great plenty we had of every kind on board, WABSHUTT and the doctor were ſtill ſo cruel and hard-hearted, that they would give me no other, or more proviſions than as before deſcribed; which ſcanty allowance was always delivered on a Sunday, in order to ſerve me all the week, but this quantity being ſo very ſmall, I frequently eat the whole up by Monday night, and then was obliged to faſt till the Sunday following, ſo that when the veſſel arrived at Annabona, I was almoſt famiſhed, having not taſted one morſel of any ſort of victuals, during the ſpace of five days; but while we lay there, a canoe with proviſions coming along ſide, gave me an opportunity of gratifying my appetite once in the voyage, for taking the ſhirt off my back (being the only one left) I purchaſed therewith two fowls, ſome caſſavi-bread, a few cocoa-nuts, and a quart bottle of brandy, ſufficient to have ſerved me a week, however had the ſatisfaction of only one meal, for the reſt was all taken away by WABSHUTT's orders, who would have deprived me of the whole, had he known it time enough.

My caſe was now deplorable indeed, been obliged to lay on the deck, with the heavens for my canopy, and the bare boards for a bed, expoſed to all weathers which are in that climate very variable and uncertain, ſometimes exceeding hot, and then immediately exceſſive cold rains will follow; and I having only a jacket and trowſers, was glad to herd among the goats and hogs for warmth, but they being near expended in about a fortnight after we left Annabona, I loſt

loſt my bedfellows, who uſed to lay round, and in ſome meaſure ſhelter me from the cold. This reduced me to a worſe ſtate than before, and what with herding with them, almoſt ſtarved for want of victuals and proper neceſſaries, and being almoſt expoſed to the open air, was brought very low and miſerable; inſomuch that with tears in my eyes, I begged of Wabſhutt for God's ſake, to have compaſſion, and let me partake of the food given to the hogs, after the ſlaves had done with the ſame. but he reſentleſs, refuſed ſuch humble requeſt; expreſſing himſelf (in the hearing of the ſhips company) thus. "If the hogs have no "victuals they will not grow fat, or be fit to kill: if "I thought it would be your laſt, you ſhould have "a belly full, but if any ſervice, I would ſooner hang "you at the yard-arm, than give you a morſel, and "was it not for the law, when we came to England "would hang you up directly.

Much about this time, a diſpute happened between Wabſhutt and the doctor, concerning a negroe girl, purchaſed with the goods of Mr. Pope our late ſecond mate deceaſed, which aroſe to ſuch a pitch, that they were determined to cut her in two, Wabſhutt to take one half of her, and the doctor the other, altho' ſhe was no property of either; and many words enſuing, Wabſhutt challeng'd the doctor to fight, which the doctor accepted, and went down from the quarter to the main deck with ſuch intent, telling Wabſhutt he would fight wim there, and not on the quarter deck, as he was commander of the ſhip, but Wabſhutt's heart then failed him, and he declined fighting, upon which the doctor warmly told him he was a rogue and a coward, that his villainy would ſoon come to light, for as ſoon as we arrived in any Engliſh port Juſtice ſhould take place; all this Wabſhutt took in good part, not giving any anſwer thereto; however, the doctor reſented it ſo far, that he would not meſs or converſe with him for near a week after, until

Wabſhutt

WABSHUTT, by frequent entreaties, prevailed on him to drink tea, when they made it up, and ſo the quarrel ended.

I was in hopes this difference would have been productive of ſome relief to my miſery, which was now ſo extreme, that I was even grown ravenous, inſomuch that raw-meat, or any thing eatable, my keen appetite devoured greedily like a dog, ſo that the very negroes pitying my lamentable circumſtances, took all opportunities to aſſiſt me privately with part of their proviſions, but the doctor keeping a watchful eye, detected ſeveral, and whipped them himſelf ſeverely, which deterred all the ſlaves from any ways helping me.

The hogs and goats (my poor old bedfellows) being all killed, cauſed me to contrive ſome ſhelter in the night, which I performed by getting under an half tub, bottom upwards, where I lay cramp'd, or doubled ſeveral nights; but was ſoon deprived of that privilege, for the doctor finding me out, he (together with Jack Bray) ſhoved the tub with me under it, from one end of the deck to the other, 'till they were tired, and then ſluiced me with ſeveral buckets of water.

Being now in the midſt of my calamity and diſtreſs, Bray in a ſneering manner ſaid, "*carpenter, if it was* "*my caſe as it is yours, I would jump over-board* "*and end my miſery.*" *I anſwered,* "*that I was more* "*willing to die than live in ſuch a periſhing condi-* "*but would not be acceſſary to my own death.*"

which the doctor, who was then at h[illegible]ion, "*You have no occaſion to deſtroy yo[illegible]* Upon "*throw you overboard,*" and dir[illegible]and, replied, that intent, both he and B[illegible]*rſelf, for I will* (whom I could not fin[illegible]ctly ſiezing me with ſide, and putting m[illegible]ray, and another perſon called the boat[illegible] out) carried me to the ſhips ſwain refuſ[illegible] legs over the gunnel, the doctor [illegible]wain to come and help, but the boat-[illegible]d, ſaying, he would not be hanged for any

body

body, and that if the doctor and the others did it, they would all three be hanged on the ſhips arrival in England. Theſe words terrified them and ſaved my life, for they all went away leaving me in that poſture.

Soon after this, I intreated Wabſhutt and the doctor to let me lay among the ſlaves, which was conſented to, provided I would ſtrip into buff as they were, whereupon I ſtript immediate y, and put my jacket and trowſers (being all the cloaths then left) under the boats bott m, but was no ſooner got down below than the doctor threw them overboard, and ordered the negroes to drive me up, otherwiſe he would flog them in the morning. Upon this, I was forced upon deck ſtark naked, about nine o'clock at night, when it rained exceſſive hard, and the air very cold; what to do I could not tell, and feeling for my jacket and trowſers, found they were removed; ſo I humbly ſupplicated the doctor, and begged his leave to ſhelter myſelf in the forecaſtle, from the inclemency of the weather, but he being inexorable, refuſed ſo ſmall a favour, and abſolutely ſwore I ſhould lay on the deck, naked as I was until we got to Antigua: Whereupon Charles Cooper (then chief mate) and Peter Bates the cooper, being ſhocked at the doctor's barbarous and inhumane treatment, told him, that if he would not grant my requeſt, and I ſhould die on deck in our paſſage, they would both of them lay my death to his charge, when the ſhip arrived in England. To this he made no ſort of anſwer, but walking off, I went to the forecaſtle, and lay there all night quite naked, [illegible] no one thing to cover me, or lay on, except [illegible]ards.

having [illegible]ſaying and a true one, that hunger will the bare bo[illegible].walls, which was verified in me, 'Tis an old [illegible] by myſelf, and my Weeks break through ſtone [illegible]o' this was but Monday for being in the forecaſtle, [illegible] how to defeat the proviſion quite exhauſted, alt[illegible] doctor, whoſe night, it put me on a contrivance [illegible] inten-helliſh deſigns of Wabſhutt and the

Intentions to deſtroy me at all events, were now too viſible to admit of the leaſt doubt; and as neceſſity is the mother of invention, I was not long at a loſs, for ripping up part of the forecaſtle flooring, I ſoon got into the hold, where I found the way to a bread-butt, when drawing the ſtaple with an old ſcraper, and a ſhackle bolt, I took out ſome bread, and then drove the ſtaple tight into the ſame holes it was in before, to prevent ſuſpicion; and by that means gathered fleſh and Strength, to their no ſmall wonder and mortification, otherwiſe might have been ſtarved to death by inches.

In this naked condition I remained till the ſhip arrived at Antigua, and during all that time, was obliged to go on the quarter-deck to drink water there, when Wabſhutt and the doctor, for their beaſtly diverſion, would frequently order the negroe women and girls to haul me backwards and forwards by the privities; however, (being now grown hearty and ſtrong through the continual ſupply of bread in the manner above ſet forth) I thought it no great puniſhment, except the indecency of the thing: and only mention this circumſtance, to ſhew how far Wabſhutt and the doctor's inhumanity and barbarity extended.

The day after our arrival at Antigua, his Majeſty's ſhip Warwick, and four other men of War anchored there; when Wabſhutt threatned to ſend me on-board one of them, and have me tried for piracy, without accuſing me of any act whatever; but herein he was diſappointed, for before he could carry that deſign into execution, (if any ſuch deſign he had) the men of war all ſailed away.

We lay here a fortnight, when Wabſhutt and Mr. Allen, (the merchant to whom the cargo was conſigned) made intereſt with the magiſtrates to have both me and Richardſon put in priſon right or wrong; and till now I remained quite naked, (except wearing a pair of trowſers, which Peter Bates the cooper gave

me on our arrival at this place) and Richardſon ſtill continued in irons, being reduced to a meer ſkeleton, through the cruelty and barbarity of WABSHUTT and the doctor, who ſtarved him in the paſſage; and altho' both his legs were ſwelled above an inch over his irons, they would not ſuffer them to be knocked off, nor a large pair to be put on, which very nearly cauſed a mortification.

This fortnight being expired, WABSHUTT ordered Richardſon's irons to be knocked off, and an old frock to be put on me; and on the 24th of October, 1755, about nine o'clock in the morning, we were both carried on ſhore to the court-houſe, where we ſtaid by ourſelves till four o'clock the ſame afternoon, at which time WABSHUTT, Mr. Allen, and Mr. Warner the juſtice came there, when Mr. Warner directed Richardſon to be un-handcuff'd; and then taking me by the hand, aſked Wabſhutt if I was the man whom he had declared was ſo great a rogue: his anſwer was yes. Whereupon the juſtice ſaid to me 'Well, "my lad, what will you think to be hanged?' To which I anſwered, "If the law will condemn me, I "am very willing to die." Upon this he ſaid no more, but ſent for his brother Daniel, another juſtice, who ſoon came, when Wabſhutt, and the doctor, together with John Bray, Richard Belton, and Samuel Bendin were ſworn as Witneſſes againſt me. Wabſhutt on his examination could ſay nothing. The doctor informed the juſtices with Richardſon's diſcourſe and behaviour to him on the quarter-deck, as before related, and nothing further. Bray confirmed the ſame. Belton depoſed as to Richardſon's ſtealing the brandy, for which he was turned before the maſt. And bendin only confirmed the doctor's depoſition. But through the whole examination my name was never once called in queſtion; whereupon I thought fit to ſpeak for myſelf, and acquainted the juſtices with the converſation between me and Richardſon, about making

making my fortune, an
the quarter-deck, together w
there, confirming what the docto
poſed: and then gave them an account
happened concerning the ſmall quantity of beer
largeneſs of bone, brought by the doctor to our meſs
while at Andony, and was proceeding to acquaint
them with Wabſhutt and the doctor's baſe dealings
in getting me ſent to the factory, and laid in irons,
and alſo deſigned to inform the juſtices of all their
cruel, inhumane, and barbarous uſage to me, during
the voyage; but Wabſhutt, ſtung to the quick, could
bear it no longer, and interrupting me, ſaid, I had
been in the rebellion in the North of England: This
was enough, (altho' a baſe, villainous lie, intending
to prejudice me) for the juſtices would hear no more,
and thereupon committed us both to priſon, without
any further cauſe or enquiry.

While in priſon, the goaler applied for my wages,
but could get no other anſwer than this, That I had
been guilty of mutiny, and my wages were forfeited.
However, I was very well ſatisfied with my confine-
ment, for reflecting on the dangers and hardſhips
attending me in the paſſage from Andony to Antigua,
and that I lived far better in this priſon, than aboard
the ſhip, I looked upon it as the direction of a kind
providence to ſave my life; for am very certain, had
I been ſent on board the Thetis again, ſhould never
have reached England: Wabſhutt and the doctor's
malice being grown ſo inveterate, that they would
have abſolutely deſtroyed me in the voyage.

On the 11th of March, 1756, Richardſon and I
were taken out of the above priſon, and carried on
board his Majeſty's ſhip the Advice, bound for En-
gland, when captain Affrick immediately rated us both
able, and I falling in with ſome Liverpool lads, who
comiſerating my lamentable ſtate, ſupplied me with a

bed

that I was furniſhed

...g we arrived at Portſmouth, when ...oard the Forbay, where the Advice's men ...re then receiving their wages; c...mmodo...e Keppel enquired how I came by my misfortune, and on being acquainted therewith, pitying my condition, he recommended it to the people, as they ſeverally were called to the pay-table, to give ſomething each man, whereby I might be enabled to proſecute the villains (meaning Wabſhutt and the Doctor) for their cruelty.

Having made a tolerable collection among the Advice's crew, I ſet out from Portſmouth in the Waggon, full of ſpirits, hoping to obtain ſatisfaction for my damages. And on coming to London, I had the good fortune to quarter at the Paul's Head, in Doctor's Commons, then kept by Mr. Samuel Collins, where I was recommended to Mr. John Lee, a Proctor, who wrote to the merchant at Briſtol; but could get no anſwer, as he frequently informed me. In this ſituation I remained at Mr. Collins near five months, who ſupported me all that time; during which, I wrote ſeveral letters to my landlady at Briſtol, enquiring after Wabſhutt and the Doctor, deſiring her to let me know what was become of them, but ſhe never ſent any anſwer; and in the interim I made application to divers Proctors, who would none of them be concerned, as Mr. Lee was already employed.

Finding no redreſs at Doctor's Commons, I applied to Mr. Oakley, an Attorney in Wellcloſe-Square, who gave me great encouragement; ſaying he would cauſe the veſſel, or Wabſhutt to be arreſted, as ſoon as they could be found. Whereupon I ſet out for Briſtol in October, 1756, having only ſix ſhillings in my pocket, being all I could poſſibly raiſe for the ſupport of myſelf and another perſon as a guide, truſting to providence for a ſupply on the road.

I arrived

I arrived at Briſtol in the ſame month, and going immediately to my landlady, asked her the cauſe of not anſwering my letters; when ſhe anſwered, ſhe did not think it worth her while, as ſhe had heard I was going to turn pirate. By this, and upon further enquiry, I found ſhe had been biaſſed by Wabſhutt, who was then a captain of a privateer, and ſpent, or cauſed to be ſpent, a great deal of money at her houſe; where numbers of Seamen boarded or frequented when at home.

The next Day I wrote to Oakley, informing him that the Phe is was lying with a broom at her maſthead, as a ſignal for ſale; and then applied to the mayor and aldermen of Briſtol, acquainting them with my misfortune, and in what manner it came, who ſaid they could take no cognizance of this matter, and I muſt ſeek a remedy at law; but lamenting my hard fate, they ſettled a penſion of three ſhillings and ſixpence per week on me for life, payable by the merchant's Hoſpital.

Five days after this, I received a letter from Oakley, with advice that he had ſent down a Writ iſſued out of the Common-pleas, to Mr. Edward Young, an Attorney in Corn-ſtreet, in order to arreſt Wabſhutt for my Wages, who was then at ſea on a cruize, which I knew nothing of when I wrote to Oakley, therefore did not at that time mention him at all.

Staying at Briſtol about a fortnight, I went from thence to Tarlaton, in Lancaſhire, among my old acquaintances, hoping to raiſe money or friends, who would enable me to carry on a proſecution againſt Wabſhutt and the Doctor for damages; where I tarried till the latter end of February, 1757, when I received a letter from Briſtol, informing me that Wabſhutt was arreſted, and had given in bail, and if I had been there at ſuch time, the affair might have been compromiſed. Upon this, I thought it moſt prudent to take Oakley's further directions therein, for which

purpoſe

purpoſe I ſet out, but being ſhort of caſh, and falling in with ſome pack-horſes, took the opportunity of travelling all the way to London, by holding one of their tails.

Upon my arrival, Oakley acquainted me, that unfortunately the writ expired three days before the arreſt; ſo that all this time, expence and trouble were thrown away for no purpoſe, and I obliged to begin the ſuit again.

Being now reduced and having nothing to ſupport myſelf with, put me on a reſolution to print my caſe, and diſtribute them over the town, which had the deſired effect: for what by thoſe caſes, and the charitable donations of ſeveral Lancaſhire gentlemen and others, I gathered up a little money, ſufficient for my preſent occaſions.

Wabſhutt being again arreſted for my wages, by virtue of a king's-bench writ, about the middle of April, I ſent a petition (with one of my printed caſes) to counſellor Clayton in Brick-Court, Temple, ſetting forth my grievances, when he was pleaſed to order me to bring my attorney, whom I ſeveral times intreated, but he refuſed to go: Whereupon Mr. Martin, jun. in King-ſtreet, Cheapſide, at my requeſt, went himſelf to Oakley, and prevailed on him, when he promis'd to call on Mr. Martin in his way, but never did, and diſappointed him twice, altho' Mr. Martin waited at home two days in expectation; neither did he ever call on the Counſellor: This behaviour of Oakley's deprived me of my friends, who all deſerted me, imagining ſome roguery, whereby I could get no one to aſſiſt me.

Eaſter term being expired, Oakley told me the cauſe would be tried next term then nigh at hand, and wanted my witneſſes, but would not let me have any ſubpæna's, till a friend of mine accidently coming to London, and finding the dilemna I was in, advanced Oakley four guineas, and preſſing him hard,

at

at laſt got the ſubpæna's, wherewith I immediately ſet out for Briſtol, being ſupplied by my friend for the journey.

Arriving at Briſtol, I received my penſion, and got two of the witneſſes ſerved, but Charles Cooper the chief-mate ſecreted himſelf, being induced and prevailed on ſo to do by Wabſhutt, whereby I was deprived of the benefit of his evidence.

Soon after this, Mr. Young, informed me that the Trial was put off till Michaelmas term; however, I brought one of the witneſſes with me up to London, Oakley having ordered me to bring them at all events, ſaying he could get their affidavits made before one of the Judges in his chambers, which would be good evidence at the trial, but after keeping the man near a fortnight in town to no purpoſe, was obliged to ſend him back again, Oakley not once attempting to get his affidavit, according to promiſe; and the expences of this tranſaction reduced me once more to the laſt extremity.

During the long vacaſion, I applied to the ſhipwrights, both in his Majeſty's and Merchant's yards for relief, who aſſiſted me very much, whereby I ſaved ſome ſmall matter againſt the Tryal, well knowing money to be the ſinews of law, as well as war, and nothing to be done without it.

Michaelmas term drawing nigh, Oakley told me the cauſe would then be tryed, and my witneſſes muſt be ready, but would not grant my ſubpæna's, therefore I was obliged to go without; and on my arrival at Briſtol, could find only one witneſs, the others being at ſea: *This witneſs was the man that came to London with me before, whom I now brought a ſecond time, daily expecting the cauſe to come on, when in about a week afterwards, Oakley informed the tryal was put off again till Hilary term.*

Theſe delays cauſed me to ſuſpect unfair play, and that Oakley was not found at the bottom; however,

determined (if poſſible) to keep this witneſs in town all that time, and he conſenting thereto, ſtaid; which (with the great expences I had already been at) ſoon exhauſting my ſmall ſubſtance, put me on a contrivance to recruit; whereupon I publiſhed a ditty, ſetting forth the cruel hardſhips I ſuffered in the voyage, and the diſmal ſituation it reduced me to, ſelling them in the moſt publick places about London; and by this means raiſed money ſufficient to carry me thro' the cauſe.

This tranſaction alarmed the friends of Wabſhutt, and the Doctor, for ſome ſhort time afterwards Oakley ſent for me to his houſe, when he informed me that Wabſhutt had made propoſals, therefore deſired to know what would ſatisfy me. I being willing and deſirous to have a final end of the affair, agreed to take one hundred and fifty pounds in full for debt, coſts, and damages; altho' my wages came to forty pounds, and my loſs in the voyage upwards of twenty pounds prime coſt, beſides the total deprivation of my eye-ſight. To which Oakley replied, that Wabſhutt had offered twenty-ſix pounds in the whole; ſo I might have eighteen pounds clear money, there being eight pounds due for charges. This offer I utterly rejected; when Oakley immediately ſaid, I was a very great villain, and unleſs I would agree to take the ſame he would ſecure me for the charges in Twenty-four hours. Whereupon I went away directly to acquaint Mr. Martin, and be adviſed by him what to do, but he was (unfortunately for me) gone into the country, where counſellor Clayton had likewiſe been for ſome Time; therefore not knowing what ſtep to take under theſe circumſtances, or whom to apply to for advice and aſſiſtance, and dreading a goal, where I might lay and periſh; was compelled through neceſſity to accept of eighteen pounds, and give a general releaſe.

The latter end of February, 1758, this affair was ſettled in judge Foſter's chambers, when Oakley receiving

ceiving a twenty-ſix pound bank bill, ordered me to execute the releaſe, which I refuſed until the money was paid into my hands; having great reaſon to ſuſpect him, after treating me in ſo vile and baſe a manner as before related; and am very certain, had I not then received my money, ſhould have found a deal of trouble in getting the ſame out of his hands, and much doubt whether I ſhould have recovered it at all.

Now having gone through the whole narrative, I'll conclude with a few remarks thereon; whereby the candid reader may judge what foundation or cauſe, WABSHUTT and the Doctor had for their barbarous uſage and unparallel'd cruelty throughout the voyage.

Firſt, While under my afflictions, WABSHUTT ſeveral times declared, That when at Pill I endeavoured to prevail on the people to turn pirates; with which he acquainted the merchant before we ſailed from thence, but the merchant ſaying he had advanced me Twelve pounds, I muſt proceed the voyage. This aſſertion is a moſt notorious falſity, and not a word of truth contained therein; for on the contrary, had it not been through my prevailing arguments and intreaties, not one of the people would have gone the voyage, as they were all then abſolutely reſolved to go back to Briſtol.

Secondly, Richardſon telling captain Fitzherbert I threatned to break open the hatches, when the keys thereof were in my own poſſeſſion, was ſo very abſurd I heard no more about it.

Thirdly, WABSHUTT lays the fault of the ſhip not being wooded and watered at Andony to my charge; and told the people that the reaſon of our going down to Calabar, was my taking the boat away, when I went to make my complaint of his ill uſage to the captain at the factory, as before related. However, this is another of his monſtrous lies, for the boats abſence one day from the ſhip, could never be the

occaſion of her not being wooded and watered, when ſhe lay there near three months afterwards. But the truth really was, and is this, Wabſhutt and the Doctor (by their cruel treatment and behaviour to the people, and not allowing them proviſions and proper neceſſaries) had reduced the ſhip's company into ſuch a weak and ſickly condition, there were not hands ſufficient for that purpoſe: and this, and no other, was the reaſon of our going to Calabar, where we got aſſiſtance as already mentioned.

Fourthly, My being put in irons at the Factory was ſolely owing to the letter ſent by WABSHUTT and the doctor to captain Fitzherbert; and 'tis now well known, that Wabſhutt lays Richardſon's proceedings to my charge, altho' no mention was made thereof, before the juſtices at Antigua: And when the matter was ſettled at judge Foſter's chambers, the lawyers told me they were glad I got the money, for WABSHUTT had ſo full a proof by affidavits made at Antigua, that they were certain I muſt have been caſt upon the trial.—But,

Fifthly, How could it be poſſible either for me or Richardſon, or any one elſe to have turned pirate, when at that time there were not hands on board ſufficient to work or navigate the ſhip, (the major part being then on ſhore, ſome cutting wood, and others at the Factory) neither had we any artillery, and beſides, lay within muſket ſhot of the Ann Galley, a large ſhip, far ſuperior in force, mounting ſeveral carriage guns, (who could have tore us in pieces) and the wind blowing very hard right aſhore, we muſt infallibly have run on the bar and periſhed, had the cables been either cut or ſlipped: Therefore leave the world to judge of the impoſſibility of ſo raſh an attempt; if any ſuch was ever intended, which I am certain never was nor even one word mentioned during the whole courſe of the voyage, tending that way;

way; except by Richardſon in his mad and drunken frolick, at the time he was put in irons at Andony.

Sixthly, After my giving the note to WABSHUTT and the Doctor, (the Surgeon belonging to the Eugene of Briſtol, then at Calabar, declaring my eye-ſight was abſolutely loſt for want of proper care and aſſiſtance) I could not refrain from ſpeaking, and told them that notwithſtanding the paper ſigned by me, promiſing not to proſecute, yet my friends in England would certainly call the authors of my misfortunes to accouut, and oblige them to make ſatisfaction; which weak expreſſion, I believe, was the ſole motive of their future barbarous treatment; for being terrified, and fearing a proſecution, they were determined, at all events, to prevent it, by putting an end to my life; frequently telling me, they would take care to prevent any trouble from coming upon them, for I ſhould not live till we got to Antigua; and if I did, they would get me ſo ſecured, that I ſhould never have the opportunity of telling my Tale in England: which plainly ſhews the intention to ſacrifice me in the paſſage, but the bread cask defeated their deſigns.

Seventhly and Loſtly, They were wicked and abandoned men in other reſpects, for the veſſel made an exceeding good voyage, having near 170 ſlaves when ſhe arrived at Antigua, which was a very fine cargo for ſo ſmall a veſſel: yet the merchant at Briſtol told me that he loſt almoſt ſeven hundred pounds by ſuch voyage. This I don't wonder at, eſpecially as having heard WABSHUTT ſeveral Times brag, that he had purchaſed 700 weight of ivory for himſelf, and but 400 for the merchant; and he likewiſe bought on his account, a large quantity of parrots, and other Things of great value: Therefore am confident, ſome illegal practices were carried on by him, in conjunction with the doctor, for they had not wherewithal, between them both, to purchaſe near ſo much as they did upon their own account. Beſides I have two reaſons more

to

to confirm my opinion; the one is what the Doctor ſaid to *Wabſhutt* on their falling out about the negroe-girl; and the other is, that Mr. Pope's father had no more than four ſhillings and ſix-pence, and his ſilver buckles, returned out of his whole effects, altho' Pope's cloaths, inſtruments, and cheſt only (excluſive of his venture, which was conſiderable) were ſold at the maſt for near fifteen pounds, and the negro girl was purchaſed with part of his venture; and then again, captain *Fitzherbert*'s widow informs me, that *Wabſhutt* has made me debtor to her huſband, notwithſtanding I never received but half a crown of him. Therefore upon the whole, it is very eaſy to gueſs how, and in what manner *Wabſhutt* and the Doctor purchaſed ſo much as they did; who, without doubt, were the only perſons that were gainers by this voyage.

N. B. Captain *Fitzherbert*'s widow lives near the Hot-Wells: and Pope's father is a Baſket-maker to be found on Briſtol Bridge.

All what is before related are real facts, which can be proved living witneſſes; and I defy both *Wabſhutt*, and the Doctor, or their friends, to contradict the ſame, or any part thereof by evidence.

* * John Richardſon's character may be heard off at his ſiſters, at the Thiſtle and Crown, in Water-Lane, Black-Friars, London.

An APPENDIX.

SINCE the foregoing narrative was wrote, ſeveral Things have occurred to my memory, and others I have been informed of, which I hope will not be diſagreeable to the candid reader.

About five weeks after captain *Fitzherbert* died, *Wabſhutt* came on board ſick, when it was reported that he was likewiſe poiſoned by the Blacks; on which the Doctor lanced him in the breaſt, under pretence of extracting the poiſon, in order to amuſe and deceive

the

the ſhips company, with reſpect to captain *Fitzherbert's* unhappy fate.

Now as it is required of me by the public, what reaſon the chief mate and doctor had to uſe me in ſuch a barbarous manner? I anſwer, that it plainly appears to me, to be a plot laid from the death of Mr. Pope, to deſtroy the captain, and make their fortunes by the voyage, which could not well be done, without likewiſe putting me out of the way; and this is the real caſe, for the cook was at the Factory, when the captain was poiſon'd, and concerned in the whole tranſaction.

After the captain came on board he was wholly attended by the doctor until his deceaſe; and then the corps was put into a coffin made by the cooper, and in the duſk of the evening laid on the main-hatches, where it continued till next morning, when his private parts and breaſt were ſwelled to ſo great a degree, that the lid could not without great difficulty be faſtened down; and then he was, by the doctor's orders, immediately launched overboard with about a hundred weight of ballaſt at his feet. Notwithſtanding which, he ſwam two feet above water, and what is the more remarkable, was ſeen ſwimming under the ſtern of the ſhip next morning, altho' four iron bars, conſiſting of one hundred additional weight had been laſhed to his coffin. I only mention this circumſtance, becauſe 'tis the opinion of the learned, that the captain's death did not proceed from the effects of negroes poiſon, but European.

However, the doctor being then the commanding officer, this affair was huſhed up, and little or nothing ſaid about it, till I lately found out the truth by one of the hands, an eye-witneſs thereto, now in London, who likewiſe inform'd me that Bray the cook, died at Antigua, while I was impriſoned there, as mentioned in the narrative, but how, or in what manner he came by his death, cannot at preſent be found out.

I have

I have been alſo informed by ſeveral of the people who formerly belonged to the Advice man of war, and knew me very well, that John Richardſon, in a clandeſtine manner, got to his meſsmates caſe of rum, and drank till he died on the ſpot.

PETER BATES is on board the Ilus, a 60 gun ſhip, as his father tells me, who keeps an Oil-ſhop in Ship-Alley, Wellcloſe-ſquare. After I brought my witneſs to London the ſecond Time, Oakley caus'd me to make an affidavit, to the expence I had been at, before the Judge, and ſaid WABSHUTT was to return the ſame. This bill amounts to 4l. 2s. 6d. But Oakley afterwards ſaid, the evidence came voluntary without a ſubpæna, and for that reaſon the money could not be recovered.

WABSHUTT ſailed from Briſtol about the month of November, 1758, in the Anſon privateer, for a ſix months cruiſe, and in Three weeks afterwards ſent in a prize, but hath not been heard of ſince. And the doctor at that Time belonged to a Guinea-man out of that port, and was then at ſea.

I have no more to ſay about my honeſt Attorney, who ſtill lives in his old habitation, and his character is very well known in that neighbourhood.

The miſtery of this iniquitous affair I hope ſoon to unravel, and ſet every thing in a true light to the whole World, that the perpetrators of ſo much Villainy may meet with their juſt Reward.